



THE WITNESS

OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

DECEMBER 25, 2022 | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday | 5:00pm
Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am,
12:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday through Friday | 8:30am

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Wednesday | Following Mass

EXPOSITION & ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

First Fridays | Following Mass
Benediction | 6:45pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 3:00pm-3:30pm
Or by Appointment




PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm
Closed for lunch 12:00 -1:00pm



The Nativity of the Lord

Cover drawing by Connor Dienes | OLQM 8th Grade

 [Facebook.com/OLQM.MI](https://www.facebook.com/OLQM.MI)
 [Twitter.com/OlqmMI](https://twitter.com/OlqmMI)
 [Instagram.com/OLQM.MI](https://www.instagram.com/OLQM.MI)

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, through its members, is called to be a sign and sacrament of salvation to the entire Catholic Community. Essential to this Mission is the work of spreading Christian life and teachings.

PARISH INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

PARISH OFFICE

32340 Pierce Street,
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
248-644-8620
248-644-8623 (Fax)

SCHOOL

32460 Pierce Street,
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
248-642-2616

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

32460 Pierce Street,
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
248-647-6068

THIS WEEK AT OLQM

Monday, December 26
No Public Mass

Tuesday, December 27
8:30 am Mass

Wednesday, December 28
8:30 am Mass/Perpetual Help
Devotions
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 29
8:30 am Mass

Friday, December 30
8:30 am Mass

Saturday, December 31
3:00 Confessions
5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 1
**Solemnity of the Mary,
the Holy Mother of God**
8:00 am Mass
10:00 am Mass
12:00 pm Mass

Christmas Parish Office Hours

Monday, Dec. 26 - Closed
Tuesday, Dec. 27 - Closed
Dec. 28, 29, 30 - 8:30 am to 1:00 pm
Monday, Jan. 2 - Closed



PARISH STAFF

REV. JAMES A. SMALARZ

Pastor

MSGR. RONALD T. BROWNE

Weekend Assistant

REV. MR. CHRIS BELTOWSKI

Deacon

MR. MICHAEL HUGHES

Pastoral Associate

mhughes@olqm-parish.org

MRS. KATIE WOLFF

Business Manager

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MR. STEVE ATWELL

Communications Coordinator

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MRS. MARY SCHELLPFEFFER

Administrative Assistant

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MRS. JILL GEDEN

Principal

jgeden@olqm-parish.org

MRS. MARY GARLOW

Faith Formation Director

mgarlow@olqm-parish.org

MR. ADAM MARTIN

Maintenance Supervisor

amartin@olqm-parish.org

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 to 3:30; or by appointment by contacting the Parish Office.

MATRIMONY

Contact the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance to schedule your Holy Matrimony preparation.

BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office.

FINANCE COUNCIL

Brad Simmons, Chair,
Jen Byrne, Joe Heikkila, Angie Janssen,
Joe Kaperzinski, Bernie Ronnisch,
Dan Totonchi, Tim Weed

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Copy due by 12:00 pm on
Friday of the preceding week.

Deliver to the Parish Office
or email copy to:
satwell@olqm-parish.org



A note from the Pastor . . .

Merry Christmas to All!!! As we celebrate this most holy and glorious season of Christmas let us be sure to pause from our festivities and thank God for the gift of the baby Jesus offered to us by God, our heavenly Father. Remember to take time during the days of Christmas to make room in your heart and home for Jesus. After all, Christmas is not just about special gifts, beautiful decorations, delicious cookies, and enjoyable parties, as much as we can all appreciate them, myself included. The true meaning of Christmas is found in Jesus Christ, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary so that we can come to encounter firsthand the love that God, our heavenly Father, has for each one of us.

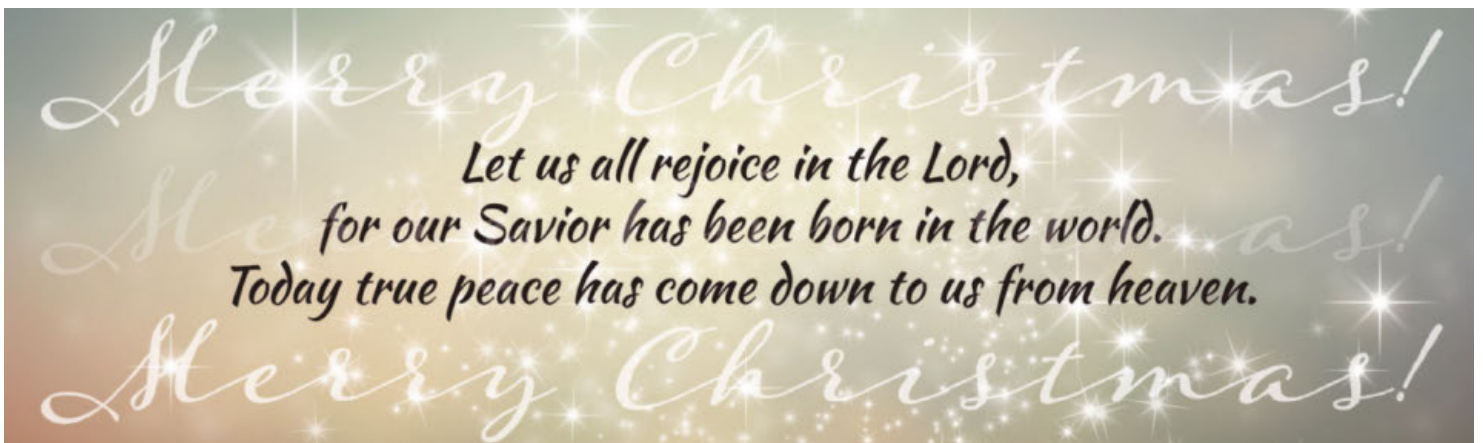
The fullness of God's love is revealed to us by Jesus from the cross, where he died to put an end to pain, suffering, anxiety, despair, depression, sin and death itself. It's from the cross that Jesus showed us the depth of the Father's love. And Jesus' resurrection from the dead is God's promise to us that through faith and trust in Jesus Christ we too can be set free from pain, suffering, hardships, anxiety, sin, depression and death itself. After all, nothing is impossible for God!

We know that Jesus rose from the dead. Our faith tells us it's true! This is why we celebrate Christmas! Without the Resurrection of Jesus, there wouldn't be any Christmas celebrations. After all, our Christmas celebrations find their root in Christianity! Therefore, celebrate Christmas in a meaningful way; not just on December 25th but throughout the joyful season of Christmas! Be sure to welcome Jesus into your home and into your heart throughout this Christmas Season. Jesus wants nothing more than for you to know first-hand the hope, love, peace, and joy that can only be found through faith and trust in Him! Let your presence and participation at Christmas Mass mark the beginning of your weekly attendance at Mass throughout the New Year! Jesus wants nothing more than for you to bring yourself close to Him and know His abiding love and care for you!

Welcome to all of our visitors and guests who are here with us to celebrate the Christmas Season! Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish Community is blessed that you have chosen our parish to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus, during the Christmas Season! Please know of our prayers for you and your family during this most joyous time of the year!

On behalf of myself and the entire OLQM pastoral team, have a Happy and Blessed Christmas Season! May the baby Jesus fulfill the deepest longings of your heart! May your heart and home be filled with happiness and laughter, as well as peaceful moments, as we embrace the warmth and love of Jesus at Christmas and throughout the coming year! Merry Christmas!!!

Fr. Jim Smalarz





From the School

The kindergarteners at OLQM have been hard at work through out December practicing for our annual nativity play! It is such a special opportunity for the kids to learn the story of the birth of Jesus at the first Christmas and to show their families what they have been working on. We make some special projects for this event, including life size paintings of their characters! We also made some presents for our families. We have had a lot of fun in Kindergarten!

~ Mrs. Haley Paradiso



Solemnity of
Mary, the Holy Mother of God

a holy day of obligation

Saturday, December 31st

5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 1st

8:00 am Mass

10:00 am Mass

12:00 pm Mass



Become a
Knights before Christmas
FREE MEMBERSHIP
 Now through December 31

Calling all Catholic men 18 and older. Now is a great time to join the Knights of Columbus. Scan the QR code, enter your information and use the FREE code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY for a FREE membership as an online member.

The Knights are a Catholic fraternal organization that actively supports the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. Whether you have 2 hours a year or 2 hours a month, show your support for our faith and sign up today.



We are looking for "Tuition Angels" for the 2022-23 school year. As we all know, the economic situation in our community has been difficult for many of our school families. We have families who currently send their children to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School, and make financial sacrifices to continue to do so, but need a helping hand.

Can you help? Would you consider being a "Tuition Angel" this year? If so, please send your donation to the Parish Office or place it in the collection basket marked "Tuition Angels." Any amount would be greatly appreciated!



Saint Stephen
December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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Saint John the Apostle
December 27

Saint John was one of the Twelve, part of Jesus' inner circle, among the few that witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' Daughter, and the Agony in the garden at Gethsemane. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. When Jesus called them, they left their father mending nets and followed him. Jesus called the brothers "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder" — they were passionate in their faith and Jesus had to rebuke them for their fiery zeal on more than one occasion. John, the younger brother, possibly the youngest disciple, was the only one present at Jesus' death.

Saint John the Apostle is traditionally thought to be the author of the fourth Gospel, the three Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. However, there has been some debate among scholars from antiquity to the present. Tradition also gives him the title Beloved Disciple and John's Gospel sees him seated next to Jesus at the last supper and the one to whom Jesus gives the care of Mary at the crucifixion.

Although Church tradition says that John survived the other disciples, living a long life, much of it is steeped in myth and legend. Some say he retired to Ephesus after the crucifixion with Mary and remained there until he died. But in other traditions he is more active. For a time he remained in Jerusalem with the other disciples, then founded churches in Asia Minor. In a legend of his persecution, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, John is taken to Rome and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but preserved from death. He is then exiled to the island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation was written.

Most accounts agree that after his exile and the Assumption of Mary he returned to Ephesus where he died sometime after 98, during the reign of the Emperor Trajan.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

December 25, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord

As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome home. Merry Christmas!

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My Shock Absorber

My decades old impulse to call him when something big happens surfaced a couple weeks ago. I was leaving the parking lot of Kroger when a police situation developed. It was dramatic, terrifying and left me completely trapped. Feeling the shock, I grabbed the phone to call Dad. Taking a deep breath, I paused. He is no longer there at the other end of the phone. Just two months ago, he left for heaven. He would have been 90 today as I write this reflection. I miss him.

From the time I was young, Dad was there to catch me. When I was 19 and totaled my car, I called Dad. When I lost my credit card and panicked because I couldn't buy my books at college, I called Dad. Even well into my adult years I'd call him. When my furnace broke, when my husband lost his job, when the kids were sick, when I was sick, when the house flooded, when my daughter had a bad car accident, I called Dad. In addition, there are those moments too personal to mention here that I called Dad. He functioned as my earliest shock absorber. Always there to buffer the blows, soften the impact, ease the tension and provide support in oh so many ways. In my most vulnerable states he kept me safe, helped me pick up the pieces, pull myself together and continue on.

Dad's early life was fashioned by shocking details. His mother, destitute and abandoned by her husband, had little choice but to put her four year old son in foster care and ultimately release him for adoption. It was during the Great Depression, she had many children but no means to care for them all. She was in a desperate and shocking situation. Two years later Dad was adopted by two loving people, my Grandma and Grandpa, who adored him and became the shock absorbers in his young life. I am so grateful for all of them, even the one who abandoned his family. It humbles me to know that my existence, as well as that of my six siblings, four children, four (almost five) grandchildren and several nieces and nephews came forth from such a sad and tragic situation. But isn't that true in some way for all of us? Somewhere in the history of our families we find (or would find) shocking details followed by the discovery of the shock absorbers. The ones who lay down their very lives so others can live. Out of death comes life. I believe I come from a long line of shock absorbers and have assumed the role myself. This is one of the basic job requirements for parents, grandparents, extended family, friends and communities of faith.

Christmas is the celebration of the incarnation of the greatest of shock absorbers. Everything about the story of the birth of Jesus is dreadful. Our imaginations can't help but be transfixed by the thought of a long journey on a donkey while nine months pregnant, having to give birth in a cold stable in an occupied country, away from family and friends, using a dirty manger for a crib, and having to flee from an angry King who wanted to kill the baby. In this story, God came into a cold, heartless world. Shocking, shocking, shocking.

If it weren't for the fact that we know how the story goes would we even find the Nativity scene heartwarming at all? Probably not. We'd find it disturbing and unappealing. But I think it's meant to disturb us. It's meant to force us to contemplate suffering around us and maybe consider how we can function as shock absorbers. We are called to go beyond our comfort zones, to the most vulnerable "babies in the manger", to seek them out and bring them gifts.

The one who heals, born in such tragic circumstances is eventually brutally crucified. In the face of such violence, he counters with nonviolence, with mercy and love. All of this story should shake us up. Jesus willingly took upon himself the sin of the world and liberated humanity from the bonds of sin and death. We must ask ourselves, as the ones who follow His Way, how can we live like this?

My Dad's death was like a sonic blast. Although I saw it coming, it still catapulted me into a free fall. Dad was my first major shock absorber but he wasn't the last. I feel so fortunate to have my faith, my husband, my children, my siblings and friends who all help to absorb the shock of losing him. In that parking lot at Kroger, I pivoted my impulse and called my baby sister.

As we gaze upon our Nativity scenes this Christmas Season may the Spirit of Holiness captivate us and illuminate those in our path, in our families, neighborhoods, schools, and places of work who are most vulnerable. May our hearts be cracked wide open and may we discover the gift of serving as their shock absorbers.

Merry Christmas.

Mary Garlow
Director of Faith Formation
mgarlow@olqm-parish.org



DARE

to be a *Disciple*

Christian Service at OLQM

Sr. Francesca Therese, OSF, Christian Service Director
248-644-8620 | srfrancesca@olqm-parish.org

TODAY IS BORN OUR SAVIOR,
CHRIST THE LORD.



*May you be blessed with
The Spirit of Christmas which is **Peace**.
The Joy of Christmas which is **Hope**.
And the Heart of Christmas which is **Love!***

Sr. Francesca Therese, OSF

Thank you for your love of Jesus and of OLQM.
Thank you for all you are and all you do to make OLQM the
amazing, faith-filled, loving, serving parish family that we are today!
Together we are making a difference in our community!

Peace and all Good, Sr. Francesca Thérèse, OSF
Christian Service Director

Christmas Poinsettia
Memorials, Tributes & Donations

Miss Barbara Labadie

The Henry & Josephine Labadie Family

Mr. Anthony Maria

Barbara & Christopher Maria

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ritter

+Laura Ritter-Allio

Colette & David Gonska

Jack & Maryanne Collis

Mr. & Mrs. Michael McCauley

Mary & Henry Krupka

Stella & Joseph Platek

Ken Krupa

Cecilia & Stanley Depowski

Miss Mary Barrett

John & Joan Barrett

Celeste Southard

Frank Schmid

+Jane Schmid

Michael Brennan

Brennan & Takes Families

John Jurewicz

Karen Jurewicz

Karen Ustick

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Pepp

Catherine & Cythia Pepp

Mr. & Mrs. John Moore

Ruth & Gene Glynn

John Moore Sr.

Mrs. Paul Londeck

+Paul Londeck

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Forster

Marcus Forster

George Duffourc

Margaret Chioini

John W. Chioini

Mr. & Mrs. Mario Meneghel

The Menehel Family

The Marson Family

Chris Wechsler

+Joel Carter

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth McGowan

Marion Kosidlo

Beverly Burnham

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Leary

Pat & Loretta Dwyer

George & Eileen Leary

Mrs. Ronald Hughes

+Ron Hughes

Lynn Forbush

+Kay Boyce

Mr. & Mrs. John Hretz

Michelle & Mike Reid

Mr. & Mrs. James Davis

+Deceased Members of
the Davis & Reisinger Families

Kim Klein

James Lewis Resler

Carol McConnell

+Brian P. McConnell

Mrs. George Budkowski

+George Budkowski

Sara Klatt

Doris Jean Schumacher

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hodgins

Larry & Maria Smith

Lucy Kirby

Mr. & Mrs. John Schaffer

Linda McCarthy

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tucker

James & Ann McLaughlin

Sharyn Tucker

Mr. Bradley Simmons

+Deceased Family & Friends

Mrs. Edgar Jones

+Edgar Jones

+Jeffrey Jones

+Elva & Donald Swope

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Zammit

The Cynowa Family

Mark Cynowa

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gorney

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Artinian

Charles Gary Artinian, MD

Elizabeth Z. Engelson

Charles & Aldona Zubres

Denise Skoneczny Beuhler

Miss Karen Hillebrand

Mr. & Mrs. James Delaney

Delaney & Montgomery Families

Mr. Jeffrey Haezebrouck

+Jan Haezebrouck

Ms. Marianne Wilensky

Herbert & Dorothy Budde

Father Jim Smalarz

+Chester & Dolores Smalarz

+Edward Luszczuk

Christmas Poinsettia
Memorials, Tributes & Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stuckey

+Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Mikolajczyk
 +Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Stuckey

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Krivda

The Pasqual & Krivda Families

Dr. & Mrs. Mark Frizzo

Joan Gielow, Bill Gielow, Vall Frizzo
 Grandpa & Grandma Pousho
 Grandpa & Grandma Gielow
 Grandpa & Grandma Frizzo
 Grandpa & Grandma Razup

Ms. Camille Skowronek

Casimir, Patricia, & James Mryncza
 Doug Campbell

Mrs. Eugene Healy

The Ward, Healy, Stinson,
 Koval & Fry Families

Ms. Elizabeth Dumouchelle

Leonard F. Charla
 Walter F. Albers

Michela Birosak

+John & Mildred Birosak +Anne Birosak-Kovach
 +Steve & Anna Timocko +Anne Marie Timocko
 +Gerry & Betty Kurk +John & Anne Martin
 +Fr. Carl Hawver, OP +Charles & Rose Samarjian
 +Sr. Maria DeMonte, OP +Sr. Mary Martin, OP
 +Victor & Sophie Angelesca

Mr. & Mrs. John O'Leary

Walter Schultz

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Melendy

+Anthony, Lorraine, Linda, & Ellen Pohl
 Father Jim Smalarz
 Monsignor Ron Browne
 Father Dennet Jung
 Father Daniele Criscione

Pat DeNio

Olga & Joseph Zafarana
 Ken Zafarana

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Wambach

Leonard & Elizabeth Wambach
 Henry, Bernice, & Adam Leich
 Judy Macks
 Pam Rieger

Ms. Mary Parsons

E. Joseph Parsons
 Ann R. Parsons
 John J. Parsons
 Michael F. Parsons
 Richard J. Parsons

The Damphousse Family

John & Julie Lynn

Mary & Gerald Lynn
 Mark Lynn

Mr. & Mrs. Erik Swonder

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Riordan

Hubert & Alberta Hoadley
 Robert & Mary Riordan
 Stephen Hoadley

Nikki Voss-Motes & Allan Motes

Dan Voss
 Eric Alexander

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kunz

Mr. Roger Jankowski

Edward Jankowski
 Angela Jankowski
 Arlene Jankowski
 Denise Hirsch

Mr. & Mrs. John Rastelli

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Main

+Ronald Ingram
 +Shirley Ingram
 +Blane Ingram

Mr. & Mrs. Donald McLennan

John & Eleanor Gallombardo
 Robert & Bernadette McLennan

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph T. Saad

Joseph Saad Sr,
 Charles Palazzola
 Catherine Palazzola
 Marry Anne Murray
 Danny Moore

Cheri Reese

Deltrice Reese
 Frederick Reese Jr.
 William Reese





December 25, 2022

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7-10 | Heb 1:1-6 | Jn 1:1-18

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

The day we have been awaiting has arrived: Christ is born! All of our Christmas preparations - wrapping gifts and preparing holiday meals to be shared among family and friends - are meant to glorify and reflect God's own work for and in us. That is, God's greatest gift of himself, clothed in mortal flesh, who would one day offer himself as the bread of life: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." Jesus came to the world in the form of the most helpless of us all, a newborn infant, so that through him we would be reconciled to the Father, for "to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God." We celebrate the Incarnation of the Lord, for Christ is our salvation! It is through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit that we are adopted into God's family and receive the fullness of his grace. The fullness of God's truth is revealed in Jesus Christ. "The Lord has made his salvation known"; "he has spoken to us through the Son." Let us give thanks and rejoice this day!

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Good News of Jesus Christ is not meant to be kept to ourselves. Today's Gospel reading reminds us that John the Baptist testified to the light of Christ before Christ had yet publicly appeared. Sharing the Good News is not optional! Even the earth proclaims the Good News in Isaiah, "announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, 'Your God is King!'" Indeed, Christ the King - God in human flesh - has arrived. Just as John was sent before the Lord to proclaim his coming, so are we charged: Sent out to the world to go and announce the Gospel of the Lord, "so that all might believe."

WITNESS How might you go out and proclaim the coming of the Lord? Don't forget: sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ isn't limited just to speaking to others. It includes *living* as Christ did - feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and the poor, defending the helpless - because we are Christ's body in the world.

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR
ORDINARY MOMENTS**

Being The Sign

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either “I already know about Jesus, thanks,” or “I’ve heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I’m really not interested in hearing more.”

Because in the end, our very lives are how we “announce his salvation” in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: “You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It’s our job to show them.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

If you know of anyone who may be struggling in their marriage, Retrouvaille is holding a Marriage Saving Weekend in the Detroit area January 13-15, 2023

This Catholic ministry has been helping to save marriages effectively for 44 years.

Visit HelpOurMarriage.Com for more information.



**Trouble or unplanned pregnancy?
Scared? Alone?**

There are many resources to support pregnant woman and their babies:

Mother and Unborn Baby Care
(248) 559-7576

Mary’s Mantle
(248) 376-5338

Gianna House (586) 445-0440

Right to Life Lifespan Troy
(248) 816-1546

Walking With Moms in Need at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs
(248) 644-8620



**OLQM CSA
UPDATE**

—2022—

Goal: \$126,793.00
Pledged: \$126,042.66
Shortfall: \$750.34

264 of 1,448 Families Pledged



Funds collected for the CSA benefit charitable and faith based programs throughout the Archdiocese. Any funds collected above and beyond the goal are returned to the parish. Thank you to all have who donated! Your support is appreciated!

THANK YOU!

Help support OLQM with your Amazon purchases at no cost to you! Shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price when you register and choose OLQM.

<https://amzn.to/3FFyzqV>

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA
JUST FOR FUN**

Question:

What is the star that rose above the stable where Jesus was born traditionally called?

Last Week’s Answer:

What town was Jesus born in?
Bethlehem, also called Ephrathah, the birthplace of King David.

©LPi

PRAYER AND WORSHIP



MASS INTENTIONS for the week of December 26 - January 1

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:30 am No Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:30 am Special Intention for
Marilyn Voss

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:30 am Special Intention for
Alex Voss

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:30 am Special Intention for
David Voss

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

8:30 am †Rev. Robert Wyzgoski

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00 pm The People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

8:00 am Special Intention for
the Jarandillia Family

10:00 am †Cecelia Walczak

12:00 pm †Genevieve Browne
†Rodolfo Marsan

*Our Lady
Queen of Martyrs,
Pray for us.*

MASS READINGS for the week of December 25 - January 1

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil and Day:

Isaiah 9:1-6

Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

St. Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17

Mt 10:17-22

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4

Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

Jn 20:1a, 2-8

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5—2:2

Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8

Mt 2:13-18

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11

Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6

Lk 2:22-35

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21

Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

St. Sylvester I, Pope

New Year's Eve

1 Jn 2:18-21

Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13

Jn 1:1-18

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

Nm 6:22-27

Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

Christmas and Year End Giving

As we embark on these last few weeks of the calendar year and prepare for the Christmas Season please take a moment to pray about your Christmas Offertory Gift to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish. Please prayerfully consider a financial gift of any denomination to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish made in thanksgiving to God for the grace and blessings He has so generously provided to you and your family over the past year. Your generosity enables the parish to provide for the spiritual needs of its parishioners; provide numerous ministries and services; as well as provide outreach to the local community.

Like any organization, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish has many operating expenses such as utility bills; property insurance; maintenance and repairs; employee salaries, wages and benefits such as health insurance and retirement. Weekly offertory collections in addition to parish fundraisers and your Christmas Offertory Gift are the primary means by which the parish covers its operating expenses.

Your Christmas Offertory Gift to the parish will not incur the usual 7.0% archdiocesan assessment. So, 100% of your Christmas Offertory Gift remains with Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish. When giving, please be sure to use your Christmas Offertory Envelope or write Christmas Offertory Gift on an envelope and place in the offertory collection basket any time from now until January 8th.

Once again, thank you for the continued support and prayers for your parish!



**PLEASE REMEMBER
IN YOUR PRAYERS...**

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
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| Wendy Bachellar | Audrey Markiewicz |
| Charles Barron | Diane Mattis |
| Morna Bowen | Derek McAleer |
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| Richard Gautreau | David Roznowski |
| Lia Geftos | Amanda Ruth |
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| David Harrison | Hope Sovran |
| Richard Harrison | Donna Stieber |
| Lisa Janes | Ann Marie Teli |
| Susan Karwacki | Carson Toepfer |
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| William Kibbe | Barbara Trotta |
| Jane King | Elizabeth Walkowiak |
| Ken Koller | Tom Warner |
| Dennis Lacelle | Sue Weed |
| Dolores Lowe | Christine Wing- |
| Richard Lowe | Jaworski |
| Joanne MacDonald | |
| Monica Madigan | |

Pray for the sick.

Prayer for Vocations

O Virgin Mary, we commend to you those who seek to follow your son as priests, brothers and sisters. You know the difficulties, struggles and obstacles they face. Assist them to utter their “yes” to the divine call as you did at the invitation of the angel. Draw them near to your heart so that they may understand the joy and beauty that awaits when the Lord calls them. Make them witness the Lord’s love. Enable them to inspire the church with their consecration. May your all powerful intercession touch the hearts of many that they may respond to the Lord’s call. Repeat to them in the depths of their hearts what you said to the waiters at Cana: “Do whatever Jesus asks.” Amen.
Pope John Paul II

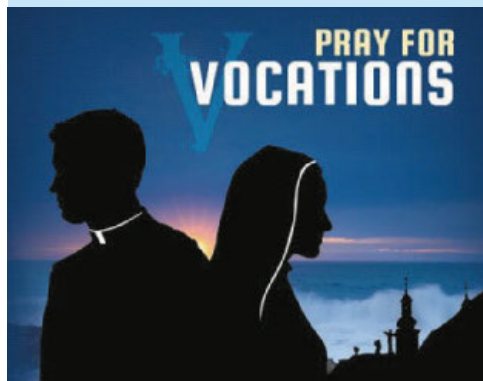
Please pray for our OLQM parishioners who are currently in formation:

Josh Burcroff
Archdiocese of Detroit

Dan Dixon
Society of Jesus

Sr. Solanus Mary
(*Mary Margaret Payne*)
Franciscan Sisters
of the Renewal

Kevin Zaporski
Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter



In Loving Memory
Our sympathy goes out
to the family of

Jan Thibodeau
Mother of
Fr. Scott Thibodeau

**OLQM Electronic
Offertory Giving**



Our Lady Queen of Martyrs offers electronic offertory giving through WeShare. By scanning the QR code you can offer a one time gift or set up a recurring donation. Offertory contributions help offset costs associated with the day-to-day operations of the parish. Thank you for your continued support of OLQM parish!



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests. (Is 9:5)

Psalm:

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. (Ps 96)

Second Reading:

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all. (Ti 2:11)

Gospel:

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” (Lk 2:10-11)

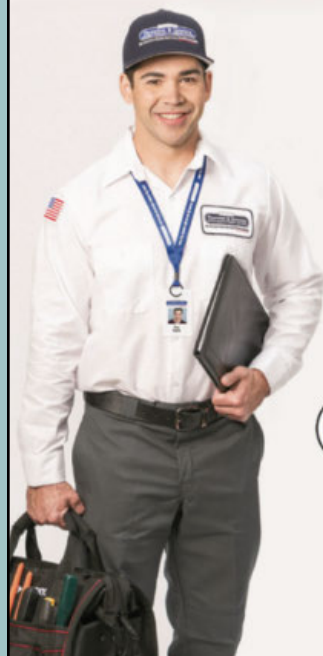
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LIVE THE LITURGY

The true meaning of Christmas is not found in the twinkling lights, the beautifully adorned trees, or the exchanged gifts. It is revealed when we find God along the way of our lives, especially when we feel displaced, desperate, and alone. Fleeing from their home, Joseph and Mary cautiously made their way through the uncertain, complex, and dark paths to a longed-for place of safety and welcome. Not sure where to lay their heads, they created makeshift preparations for the birth of their child, the Son of God. God, who always was, is, and will be, without beginning or end is the one constant in life who sees us through difficult and scary times. Jesus is the light, which enlightens everyone, and comes into the world to show us the truth. It is joyful good news that calms our fears and allows us to go forth into the nighttime of our lives, courageously. This is the meaning of Christmas. We are never lost or alone. God is with us, loving us and leading us where we need to be.

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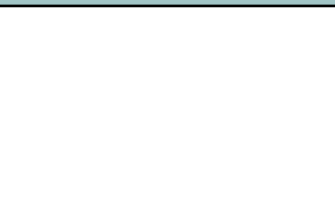


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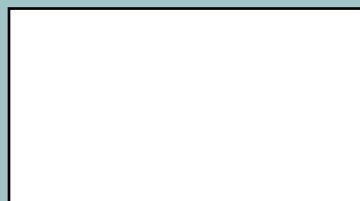
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